Building on successful political and economic transformation, Myanmar is emerging as a prosperous nation. The country possesses abundant natural resources, a strategic location at the crossroads of Asia, a young population, and a sizable market with wide-ranging investment opportunities. However, much remains to be done to maintain stability in the country, both on the macroeconomic front and in terms of peace and reconciliation. Myanmar needs to address significant gaps in infrastructure and human resources, which constrain social and economic development. The reform agenda should also continue progressing toward good governance, effective public sector management, and a conducive business environment.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) commenced reengagement with Myanmar in early 2012. ADB has since been supporting the country’s national development strategies and priority programs in collaboration with other development partners.

**Myanmar: 2018 Committed Loans, Grants, and Technical Assistance ($ million)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Loans</th>
<th>Sovereign</th>
<th>Nonsovereign</th>
<th>Technical Assistance</th>
<th>Grants</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Loans</td>
<td>614.10</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>9.25</td>
<td>22.00</td>
<td>645.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>–</td>
<td>nil</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes: Commitment is the financing approved by the ADB Board of Directors or Management for which the investment agreement has been signed by the borrower, recipient, or the investee company and ADB.

Grants and technical assistance include ADB-administered cofinancing.

**Myanmar: Cumulative Lending, Grant, and Technical Assistance Commitments**

| Sector                                                      | No. | Total Amount ($ million) | %
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----|--------------------------|---
| Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Rural Development       | 42  | 495.20                   | 17.57
| Education                                                  | 6   | 105.45                   | 3.74
| Energy                                                     | 18  | 516.85                   | 18.34
| Finance                                                    | 6   | 23.67                    | 0.84
| Health                                                     | 6   | 84.72                    | 3.01
| Industry and Trade                                         | 10  | 29.45                    | 1.04
| Information and Communication Technology                   | 2   | 192.50                   | 6.83
| Multisector                                                | 5   | 4.60                     | 0.16
| Public Sector Management                                   | 12  | 596.90                   | 21.18
| Transport                                                  | 16  | 527.55                   | 18.72
| Water and Other Urban Infrastructure and Services          | 19  | 241.73                   | 8.58
| Total                                                      | 142 | 2,818.63                 | 100.00

- Grants and technical assistance include ADB-administered cofinancing.
- Includes sovereign and nonsovereign loans and technical assistance.
- Using primary sector in reporting of commitments.
- Numbers may not sum precisely because of rounding.

**Myanmar: Ordinary Capital Resources Nonsovereign Commitments by Product, 2007–2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of Transactions Signed</th>
<th>Amount ($ million)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Loans</td>
<td>384.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equity Investments</td>
<td>30.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guarantees</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>414.30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- = nil.
and disaster risk management; regional cooperation; and gender equality.

During 2013–2018, ADB committed loan and grant projects of $2.1 billion for Myanmar. These projects were designed to (i) improve electricity supply and energy infrastructure; (ii) develop road networks and other transport infrastructure; (iii) improve telecommunications infrastructure; (iv) expand water supply, sanitation, and other urban infrastructure; (v) modernize agriculture and improve rural incomes and livelihoods; (vi) streamline education and training to equip youth for employment; and (vii) prevent the spread of malaria, HIV/AIDS, and other communicable diseases.

In 2018, ADB committed four sovereign loans totaling $614.1 million for Myanmar. These investments support improvements to the country’s urban development, transport networks, energy systems, and agricultural productivity.

Two projects aim to enhance Myanmar’s connectivity and competitiveness through regional cooperation and integration. A corridor towns project will improve urban infrastructure along the country’s section of the Greater Mekong Subregion East–West Economic Corridor, while a highway modernization project will link Myanmar to the Greater Mekong Subregion East–West and North–South Economic Corridors by upgrading 99 kilometers of highways and improving the safety of the Yangon–Mandalay expressway.

In the energy sector, ADB committed a project to upgrade facilities to reduce transmission and distribution losses in selected states and regions across Myanmar. Combined with other existing energy projects at the national level, ADB’s program aims to support the achievement of universal electrification in the country, supplying reliable and cost-effective electricity using private and public sector resources and promoting renewable energy sources and energy efficiency.

Meanwhile, ADB committed an agribusiness project to improve the climate resilience of critical agricultural production and post-harvest infrastructure, and promote crop intensification and commercialization, in selected townships in Myanmar’s central dry zone.

In 2018, the bank also committed $9.25 million in technical assistance to Myanmar. This assistance is supporting ongoing reforms in the domestic capital market, developing a systematic and practical approach to road safety, and improving the Government of Myanmar’s capacity in key operational areas.

**NONSovereign OPERATIONS**

As a catalyst for private investments, ADB provides financial assistance to nonsovereign projects and financial intermediaries. Total commitments from ADB’s own funds (in equity and direct loans) in 2018 amounted to $3.14 billion for 32 transactions in economic and social infrastructure, the finance sector, and agribusiness. ADB also actively mobilizes cofinancing from commercial and concessional sources. In 2018, ADB mobilized $3.17 billion of long-term cofinancing and $3.99 billion of cofinancing in trade finance, microfinance, and supply chain finance programs. Total outstanding balances and commitments of nonsovereign transactions funded by ADB’s own resources stood at $12.7 billion as of 31 December 2018.

**COFINANCING**

Cofinancing operations enable ADB’s financing partners, governments or their agencies, multilateral financing institutions, and commercial organizations to participate in financing ADB projects. The additional funds are provided in the form of official loans.
and grants, technical assistance, other concessional financing, and commercial cofinancing such as B loans, risk transfer arrangements, parallel loans and equity, guarantee cofinancing, and cofinancing for transactions under ADB’s Trade Finance Program and Supply Chain Finance Program.

ADB began cofinancing operations in Myanmar in 1977. Since then, cumulative direct value-added official cofinancing commitments for Myanmar have amounted to $1.56 billion for 16 investment projects and $51.86 million for 41 technical assistance projects. Cumulative direct value-added commercial cofinancing for Myanmar has amounted to $135.9 million for two investment project.

In 2018, Myanmar received $22 million in grant cofinancing from the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program for the Climate-Friendly Agribusiness Value Chains Sector.

A summary of projects with cofinancing from 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2018 is available at www.adb.org/countries/myanmar/cofinancing.

PARTNERSHIPS

ADB is a key contributor to Myanmar’s cooperation partners group and a member of all sector coordination groups. The Myanmar Resident Mission in Nay Pyi Taw actively coordinates ADB operations with key development partners for cofinancing and other collaboration.

Together with the Japan International Cooperation Agency and the World Bank, ADB actively participates in the annual Joint Country Portfolio Review with the government. ADB also regularly consults with the government, other development partners, nongovernment organizations, the private sector, and academia to promote policy dialogue and discuss development themes and operational issues.

PROCUREMENT

Each year, ADB provides loans, grants, and technical assistance to fund projects and activities in its developing member countries and several billion dollars in contracts to procure goods, works, and consulting services. Most contracts are awarded on the basis of international competition, which is open to firms and individuals from any ADB member, regional or nonregional.

Share of ADB’s Procurement Contracts

Goods, Works, and Related Services

ADB’s procurement contracts in Asia and the Pacific for goods, works, and related services under loan and grant operations totaled $10.2 billion in 2017 and $12.55 billion in 2018. Cumulative procurement since 1966 has been $180.86 billion covering 215,461 contracts.

In Myanmar, 380 contracts worth $616.41 million have been awarded to contractors and suppliers since 1973.

Consulting Services

ADB’s procurement contracts in Asia and the Pacific for consulting services under loan, grant, and technical assistance operations totaled $746.79 million in 2017 and $696.18 million in 2018. Cumulative procurement since 1966 has been $12.7 billion covering 59,248 contracts.

In Myanmar, 202 contracts worth $1.154 million have been awarded to consultants since 1973.

OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES

While Myanmar has made progress in laying the building blocks for an inclusive market economy and improved livelihoods, significant challenges remain. ADB is working particularly closely with the government to enhance the technical and institutional capacity of government agencies; mitigate the impacts of climate change and promote environmental sustainability; and improve the country’s business and regulatory environment to promote private sector development, attract more investment, and increase labor-market productivity.

Long-standing ethnic conflicts across Myanmar also add complexity to the operating environment, which requires adequate understanding and analyses of the country’s culture and background. ADB is integrating into its Myanmar operations context- and conflict-sensitive approaches that help ensure economic and social inclusion, and deliver effective support to conflict-affected areas.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

The ADB country partnership strategy, 2017–2021 for Myanmar is based on extensive analysis of development challenges as well as comprehensive consultations with the government and other key development stakeholders.

ADB operations will address the strategic areas of infrastructure connectivity, human capital and skills development, and structural and
ABOUT MYANMAR AND ADB

ADB Membership
Joined 1973

Shareholding and Voting Power
Number of shares held: 57,810 (0.543% of total shares)
Votes: 97,507 (0.733% of total membership, 1.127% of total regional membership)
Overall capital subscription: $804.02 million
Paid-in capital subscription: $40.22 million

Anuar bin Ariffin is the Director and Yuenin Li-Misra is the Alternate Director representing Myanmar on the ADB Board of Directors.

Newin Sinsiri is the ADB Country Director for Myanmar. The Myanmar Resident Mission, with offices in Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon, was established in 2014 and provides the primary operational link for activities between ADB and the government, the private sector, civil society stakeholders, and development partners. The resident mission engages in policy dialogue, country partnership strategy development and programming, and portfolio management, while also acting as a knowledge base on development issues in Myanmar.

The Myanmar government agency handling ADB affairs is the Ministry of Planning and Finance.

ABOUT THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

ADB is a multilateral development bank owned by 68 members, 49 from the region and 19 from other parts of the world. ADB’s main instruments for helping its developing member countries are policy dialogue, loans, equity investments, guarantees, grants, and technical assistance. In 2018, lending volume was $19.88 billion (126 projects), with technical assistance at $241.20 million (280 projects) and grant-financed projects at $1.42 billion (44 projects). In addition, $14 billion was generated in direct value-added cofinancing in the form of official loans and grants, other concessional cofinancing, and commercial cofinancing such as B loans, risk transfer arrangements, guarantee cofinancing, parallel loans, parallel equity, and cofinancing for transactions under ADB’s Trade Finance Program. From 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2018, ADB’s annual lending volume averaged $15.99 billion. In addition, investment grants and technical assistance funded by ADB and Special Funds resources averaged $583.95 million and $184 million over the same period. As of 31 December 2018, the cumulative totals excluding cofinancing were $275.82 billion in loans for 3,090 projects in 44 countries, $9.38 billion in 374 grants, and $4.52 billion in technical assistance grants, including regional technical assistance grants.

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Fax +95 67 407027

Useful ADB websites
Asian Development Bank
www.adb.org

Annual Report
www.adb.org/documents/series/adb-annual-reports

Asian Development Outlook
www.adb.org/publications/series/asian-development-outlook

ADB Data Library
data.adb.org

Notes:
ADB welcomed Niue as its 68th member in March 2019.
Figures are estimated by ADB unless otherwise stated. “$” refers to United States dollars.
Data are updated as of 31 December 2018 unless otherwise indicated. Fact sheets are published annually in April.